

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the first full paragraph on page 1 with the following:

This application is a divisional application of U.S. Patent Application No. 09,616,154 filed July 14, 2000 entitled "Metal Nanoshells for Biosensing Applications", now U.S. Patent No. 6,699,724, which is a continuation-in-part of co-pending U.S. Patent Application No. 09/038,377 filed March 11, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,344,272, and also claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/144,136 filed July 16, 1999. The disclosures of those applications are incorporated herein by reference.